

THE
HISTORY
OF
NEW ENGLAND

FROM
1630 TO 1649.

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BY JOHN WINTHROP, ESQ.
FIRST GOVERNOUR OF THE COLONY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

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FROM
HIS ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

WITH NOTES

TO ILLUSTRATE
THE CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL CONCERNS, THE GEOGRAPHY, SETTLEMENT AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE LIVES AND MANNERS OF THE PRINCIPAL PLANTERS.

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Sæpe audiui, Q. Maximum, P. Scipionem, præterea civitatis nostræ præclaros viros, solitos ita dicere, cum majorum imagines intuerentur, vehementissime sibi animum ad virtutem accendi.

Sallust, Bell. Jugurth. c. iv.

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Some of Watertown began a plantation at Martin's Vineyard beyond Cape Cod, and divers families going thither, they procur'd a young man, one Mr. ¹Green, a scholar, to be their minister, in hopes soon to gather a church there. He went not.²

Others of the same town began also a plantation at ³Nashaway some 15 miles N. W. from Sudbury.

11. 18.] About midnight, three men, coming in a boat to Boston, saw two lights arise out of the water near the north point of the town cove, in form like a man, and went at a small distance to the town, and so to the south point, and there vanished away. They saw them about a quarter of an hour, being between the town and the governour's garden. The like was seen by many, a week after, arising about Castle Island and in one fifth of an hour came to John Gallop's point.

The country being weary of the charge of maintaining Castle

¹ Notice of his early death, after being settled as the first minister of Reading only two and a half years, will be seen in the progress of this volume. Hubbard, 416, mentions his name of baptism, Henry, which Mather omitted. Johnson, lib. II. c. 25 honours him with verses, of which the first is, perhaps, the best in his book:

On earth's bed thou at noon hast laid thy head.

² The church, however, was gathered, and Thomas Maybew jr. ordained its pastor. It is remarkable, that so great neglect of the early history of the Vineyard is found in the original historians. Thomas Mayhew, the father of that colony, had been admitted a freeman 14 May 1634, at the same time with Governour Haynes, Cotton, Hooker, and Stone, whom I therefore presume he accompanied in the Griffin, which arrived in September preceding. He was a deputy from Watertown at the general court, 8 September 1636, again in May 1637, and in the eleven following courts. He lived to the mature age of ninety, governed Martha's vineyard many years, and is, with a numerous list of descendants, honoured in the highest rank of benevolent labourers in the divine employment of civilizing the Indians. Very full memorials of him and his posterity are to be seen in 2 Hist. Coll. III. from the pen of a most accurate and judicious enquirer. Of this family was the Rev. Jona. Mayhew, of Boston, one of the most distinguished asserters of civil and religious liberty.

³ Something more of this settlement will be found next year. Watertown was a hive, from which swarmed many new towns. It had been a matter of complaint, that towns were so thickly planted, as early as 1635, for the government at first permitted no man to live more than half a mile from the meeting house in his town; and Watertown people seem to have felt more than others this density of population. See Pratt's Apology in 2 Hist. Coll. VII. 126. By Tyler Bigelow, Esquire, of that town, I am furnished with one of their votes of that date, which explains their views of the evil: "Agreed by the consent of the freemen (in consideration there be too many inhabitants in the town, and the town thereby in danger to be ruined) that no foreigner coming into the town, or any family arising among ourselves, shall have any benefit either of commonage, or land undivided, but what they shall purchase, except that they buy a man's right wholly in the town." Probably for a century and three quarters the fear has been removed.

Island, the last general court made an order to have it deserted and the ordnance fetched away; but Boston and other towns in the bay finding that thereupon the masters of some ships which came from England took occasion to slight us and to offer injury to our people, having liberty to ride and go out under no command, and considering also how easily any of our towns in the bay might be surprised, we having no strength without to stop them or to give notice of an enemy, they chose certain men out of the several towns who met at Boston to consider of some course of repairing and maintaining it at their proper charge: but the difficulty was, how to do it without offence to the general court who had ordered the deserting of it, &c.

The 18th of this month two lights were seen near Boston, (as is before mentioned,) and a week after the like was seen again. A light like the moon arose about the N. E. point in Boston, and met the former at Nottles Island, and there they closed in one, and then parted, and closed and parted divers times, and so went over the hill in the island and vanished. Sometimes they shot out flames and sometimes sparkles. This was about eight of the clock in the evening, and was seen by many. About the same time a voice was heard upon the water between Boston and Dorchester, calling out in a most dreadful manner, boy, boy, come away, come away: and it suddenly shifted from one place to another a great distance, about twenty times. It was heard by divers godly persons. About 14 days after, the same voice in the same dreadful manner was heard by others on the other side of the town toward Nottles Island.

These ||prodigies|| having some reference to the place where Captain Chaddock's pinnace was blown up a little before, gave occasion of speech of that man who was the cause of it, who professed himself to have skill in necromancy, and to have done some strange things in his way from Virginia hither, and was suspected to have murdered his master there; but the magistrates here had no notice of him till after he was blown up. This is to be observed that his fellows were all found, and others who were blown up in the former ship were also found, and others also who have miscarried by drowning, &c. have usually been found, but this man was never found.

12. 5.] Cutshamekin, and Agawam, and Josias, Chickatabot his heir, came to the governour, and in their own name and the names of all the sachems of Watchusett, and all the Indians from Merrimack to Tecticut, tendered themselves to our government, and gave the governour a present of 30 fathom of wampom, and

||proceeding=||